

## **North Cumberland Fire District Board of Trustees**

### **Minutes of Annual Meeting - June 19, 2013**

**Present: Philip Koutsogiane, Chair Others: Ghislaine Therien, Clerk**

**Michael Spaziani, Vice Chair Chief Brian Jackvony**

**Harry Mac Donald Martin Klara, Tax Collector**

**Matthew Gannon Robert Murray, Treasurer**

**Paul Lindquist Excused: John McCoy Brian Campbell**

### **Meeting Call to Order**

- **Chairman called to order the annual meeting of the North Cumberland Fire District (NCFD) at 7:10 p.m. A quorum is present.**

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

- **Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Phillip Koutsogiane.**

### **Proof of Notice of Annual Meeting**

- **Chairman Koutsogiane submitted into the record a notarized Affidavit of Compliance dated June 17, 2013 listing newspaper and dates in which the annual meeting was advertised.**

### **Roll Call**

- **Present: Chairman Philip Koutsogiane, Vice Chair Michael Spaziani, Paul Lindquist, Brian Campbell, Matthew Gannon, Harry MacDonald, Chief Brian Jackvony, Tax Collector Martin Klara, Treasurer Robert**

**Murray, and Clerk Ghislaine D. Therien.**

- **Excused: John McCoy**

### **Election of Moderator**

**Motion made by Mr. Lindquist and seconded by Mr. MacDonald to nominate Chairman Koutsogiane as Moderator for the Annual Meeting. Motion carried by all present.**

### **Matthew Gannon, Trustee**

**Chairman Koutsogiane indicated that this will be Mr. Gannon's last meeting as a Trustee. He has faithfully served on the Board of Trustees for 16 years. We all thank him for his service.**

### **Acceptance of Minutes of Annual Meeting held on June 27, 2012**

**Motion made by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. MacDonald to accept the Minutes from the June 27, 2012 Annual Meeting as presented by the Clerk. Motion carried by all present.**

### **Summary of Activities of Fire District for previous fiscal year:**

#### **Chairperson, Treasurer, Fire Chief**

**Robert Murray, Treasurer gave a general overview of year end 2012-2013 annual budget explaining the final year end numbers ending June 30, 2013 using May actual information. Finished the 2012-2013 year better than budgeted. 95% of current year taxes have been collected.**

## **Chief Jackvony's Summary**

### **Responses**

- District responded to a total of 1,269 calls in the 2012-2013 year. This number represents an average year but is a slight decrease from the previous year. The average response time to a district call is 5.5 minutes.

### **Fire Prevention**

- School program in Town is going well

### **Personnel**

- Personnel continue to seek professional development and Lt. Emerson is the training officer.
- Currently have 8 call members that train weekly under Lt. Emerson.

### **Fire Prevention**

- The Department conducted 91 smoke detector/carbon monoxide detector resale inspections/32 new construction, addition and remodeling plan reviews/35 construction inspections/13 fire prevention demonstrations/9 special permit inspections/ and 62 RI State Fire Code inspections.

### **Financial**

- Federal grant money was used to purchase a computer aided dispatch system and record management system.

- Grant was secured for the replacement of a heating system and replacement windows. \$4,400 was reimbursed to the fire district.
- Applied for surplus military equipment through the Federal government which may be useful when replacing Brush 51.

## **Equipment**

- Protective gear has been replaced
- Aerial and ground ladders were tested and found to be compliant
- Pumps certified annually

## **Apparatus**

- Engine 5 in good condition.
- Truck 5 in good condition but is 20 years old and significant repair have recently been completed
- Brush 51 had major engine work done but the pump needs replacement at an estimated cost of \$2,500.00
- Car 5 in good operating condition
- Car 55 has been decommissioned and sold as surplus equipment

## **Buildings and Grounds**

- Repairs needed to exterior deck

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Approval of Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Annual Budget With Setting of Tax Rate**

- Fire Chief Jackvony is splitting his time between the Valley Falls

**Fire Department and North Cumberland Fire Department. An Administrative Assistant is included in the proposed budget to allow Chief more time to attend to his daily duties.**

- Fire District reports and proposed budget are now available on NCFD's website for residents to view.**
- The Board met several times to set the 2013-2014 budget at \$1,797,075 reducing the tax rate from \$1.68 per thousand to \$1.57 by using \$115,000 from cash reserves.**
- The Board will utilize a portion of the cash surplus and apply it towards the new budget.**

**Motion made by Michael Spaziani to accept the 2013-2014 budget as presented setting the tax rate at \$1.57 per \$1,000. Motion seconded by Paul Lindquist.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Arthur Lambi**

**Mr. Lambi had concerns about the \$1.57 tax rate and felt it should be lower. He also questioned Mr. Koutsogiane about the cash surplus stating residents had not been told how much the surplus was. In June of 2010 there was a \$260,000 surplus and every year since. He felt the tax rate will increase upon consolidation to as high as \$2.00 per \$1,000. He asked that the Board use \$500,000.00 of cash revenue to further reduce the tax rate.**

**Mr. Murray addressed the residents stating between May and August**

little monies come in till the new bills are mailed and the Board needs the reserved funds to pay bills in the interim. Until November 2014, the district will continue to operate independently. The Board needs the excess monies to run the district for the next four months.

**Steven Jackson, Metcalf Drive, Cumberland, RI**

He ask a the end of this fiscal year how much money is in the checking account? The residents deserve the money back. Mr. Murray replied at this time next year the district will have \$300,000 in the account.

**Representative Karen MacBeth**

She is in favor of the merger but the not the language contained in the legislation. She also stated she felt the legislation shifted the department's surplus funds to the unified body. She quoted from the legislation:" Any and all funds acquired by the Cumberland Fire District hereunder which at the time of the passage of this act are held by the Cumberland, North Cumberland, Cumberland Hill and Valley Falls Fire Districts shall be held, used or applied, spent, expended and administered by the Cumberland Fire District. Mayor McKee, who was present as a resident, dismissed her interpretation of the words "at the time of the passage of this act".

**Melissa Travis, Sleepy Hollow Drive, Cumberland**

She felt it prudent to look at improving the district's capital expenditures.

**Kent Forciagi**

**If there is a surplus it should be returned to the residents**

**Duane Guenard, Staples Road, Cumberland**

**The residents want to consolidate but want to know the terms. Felt surplus should be returned to the residents.**

**Thomas Letourneau**

**Heard that the district had settled the Cook lawsuit and he would be receiving \$10,000 but there was nothing in the budget that indicated this. Chief Jackvony replied that the Crook lawsuit had not been settled.**

**Thomas Ward**

**Sounds like the Board has a moral obligation to pass a surplus budget. Perhaps the Board should decide to pay off the truck prior to the consolidation.**

**Mayor John McKee**

**He feels the legislation is good but is at the mercy of the General Assembly.**

**Tim Draper**

**Felt regardless of the dollar amount of any funds remaining, after the consolidation the remainder of any funds should be returned to the**

**taxpayers and has a problem with giving up the surplus.**

**Charles Wilk**

**He inquired if there was going to be a guarantee that if this legislation passes residents will not have control anymore.**

**Chairman Koutsogiane makes a point of order. Numerous taxpayers have spoken, several more than once on the motion that is now before the body. Asks for a voice vote. Chairman Koutsogiane then requests a count . Two (2) counts taken. The motion carries: 32 in favor, 26 against.**

## **CONSOLIDATION/MERGER**

**Arthur Lambi**

**He served on the Town Council sub-committee – 80% voted in favor of consolidation. The Town Council hired a consultant who compiled a report. The Town Council studied the report. He would like the Board to lower the budget and designate \$600,000 for future use against future tax levies. Chairman Koutsogiane stated that the budget had been voted on and passed.**

## **Election of Trustees**

**There are three vacancies on the Board. The Board received two (2) applications- John McCoy and Charles Wilk,**

**The Chairman gives a background of John McCoy who is out of state,**



**Charles Wilk then indicates his interest and desire to be elected. He is a former Town Councilman. Chairman Koutsogiane asks for a vote of the members present. John McCoy and Charles Wilk are elected.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion made by Mr. Lindquist to adjourn the annual meeting. Motion seconded by Michael Spaziani. Motion carried by all present.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Ghislaine D. Therien, Clerk**